

KUSHAN SCULPTURE
IMAGES FROM EARLY INDIA



The Cleveland Museum of Art
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The Cleveland Museum of Art
13 November 1985 - 5 January 1986
Asia House
New York, N.Y.
13 February - 6 April 1986
Seattle Art Museum
8 May - 13 July 1986

September 25, 1985

NEEDLES, DYE-POTS, AND LOOMS: TEXTILE TRADITIONS IN INDIA
September 10, 1985 - Spring 1986

An exhibition of Indian textiles from the Museum collection complements the major exhibition, Kushan Sculpture: Images from Early India. This small and delightful show will remain on view throughout the fall, when the Museum is busy with events and programs related to India, and beyond, into the spring of 1986.

The origins of weaving, dyeing, and embroidery in India are ancient, predating the third millennium BC. By three thousand years later, in the third century BC, Indians had learned silk cultivation from the Chinese, and silk cloth was being woven in India. From earliest recorded history, Indian textiles were widely traded, but it was not until the seventeenth, and particularly the eighteenth, centuries that Europeans "discovered" Indian textiles through Dutch and English trade in Southeast Asia.

This exhibition presents the distinctive styles and techniques unique to each region, created by strong hereditary guilds that existed within India's rigid caste system. Among the techniques exhibited are tie-dye; embroidery; printed, dyed, and painted cottons; and brocades woven with silk and gold thread. Two nineteenth-century costumes are included: a dress and pants costume made of silk satin with silk embroidery and mirror glass inserts, and a silk wedding sari.

The exhibition was drawn from the Museum collection by curator Anne Wardwell.